



A Comparative Analysis of the Impact of Banditry on Socio-economic Development in Kankia and Batsari Local Government Area of Katsina State, Nigeria.

Charlton Ethelbetter Adaugo

Institute For Peace And Conflict Resolution, Abuja, Nigeria

E-mail: charltonadaugo@gmail.com.

Abstract:

Through disrupting the socioeconomic environment and escalating pre-existing vulnerabilities in impacted areas through kidnapping, armed robbery, and other violent crimes, banditry has grown to be a serious security threat in Northern Nigeria in recent years. The paper a comparative analysis of the impact of banditry on socio-economic development in Kankia and Batsari Local Government Area (LGAs) in Kastina State, Nigeria. The source of data for this paper was gotten from the internet and existing literatures, a quantitative research method was used. Findings reveal that Batsari LGA, with a higher frequency of bandit attacks, experiences more profound socio-economic disruptions compared to Kankia LGA, because of its closeness to Rugu Forest. In Batsari, persistent insecurity has led to significant displacement of farmers, reduced agricultural output, and a sharp decline in school attendance due to fears of attacks among others. While Kankia LGA also faces banditry, the impact is comparatively less severe due to its geographical location and more effective local security measures. Increased security presence, community-based policing, providing socio-economic support to impacted groups, and investing in infrastructure to promote resilience and sustainable development are among the recommendations.

Key words: *Banditry, Insecurity, Socio-economic Development, Northern Nigeria*

Introduction:

The impact of banditry on socio-economic development has become a serious area of concern, mostly in regions grappling with persistent insecurity. Katsina State, located in the northern part of Nigeria, shows this challenge with its experience of extensive banditry activities such as Kidnapping, armed robbery and other forms of violent crime which have escalated in recent years, disrupting the lives of inhabitants and obstructing economic activities. Local government areas such as Kankia and Batsari have been mostly vulnerable.

Banditry is a terrible crime posing a great security encounters to the democratic governance and peaceful coexistence in Nigeria. Banditry is extensive in the Northern region of Nigeria, and the activities of bandits include; arson, looting, kidnapping, cattle rustling, killing, raping and among others (Akinyetun, 2022). Beginning with the widely publicized kidnapping and abduction

of an emigrant oil worker in the oil-rich Niger Delta region on February 25th, 2006, the surge of kidnapping activities in Nigeria has begun to get attention (Ibrahim & Ahmad, 2020). Though, the danger of kidnapping and armed-banditry have recently turn out to be a reoccurring incidence threatening the survival and peace of people living especially in the North-West states of Nigeria (Akinyetun, 2022).

It no longer receives the attention it deserves from national and international governments, organizations and institutions since it has become the norm. Few cases make the National Dailies' front pages, despite the fact that they occur often and seem to defy all possible remedies. People are kidnapped, killed, rapped, harassed and their properties are destroyed, homes are set ablaze by mostly Fulani herders (who are also known as Bandits) and few other miscreants. Currently, there is no problem troubling most states in the North West Nigeria than the problem of



kidnapping and armed bandits. Individuals no longer sleep with their two eyes closed, as a result several communities are now helpless, pathetic, restless, homeless, despair and hopeless.

Every day, articles about these shepherds' strategic attacks on many houses and communities with advanced AK-47 assault rifles appear in the national dailies. In the Northern States Kidnapping and banditry is widespread in states such as Kogi, Zamfara, Sokoto, Kastina, Niger, Kebbi, Kaduna and Abuja. The kidnapping groups frequently operate both in the urban and rural areas in Northern Nigeria, and regularly demand for huge ransom payment from the families of the victims, and consequently leave the victims and their families financially bankrupt, in several cases bandits impose levies to many communities in the rural areas (Adetayo, 2022). It has since become a lucrative and easy business to the gang of criminals, aiding and fueling this devilish act is the apathetic attitude on the side of security agencies, informants' operations and saboteurs' efforts.

Banditry has become the key problem of concern in Katsina State in 2014, when there was a bandit's attack in some villages in Faskari Local government area and killed 103 people including children and women, and also went further to burn their houses. The incidence continues to deteriorate between 2017 and 2018. Of late some local governments in Katsina State have turn out to be the soft target due to their closeness to thick and massive forest spread across Kaduna, Niger and Zamfara States. These huge forests aid as shelter to carry out the devilish, notorious and evil acts, it been reported that hundreds of bandits invade the Rugu Forest of Katsina State and turned it as the safest place to attack villages and kidnap people (Daily trust, 2021, January 16th). The activities of bandits and kidnappers in Katsina State are majorly in Batsari, Kankia, Kankara, Sabuwa, Safana, Jibia, Faskari, Danmusa and Dandume and steadily spreading to other local governments in the state.

Review of Literature:

Banditry

The concept of Banditry can be described by looking at the prevalence or occurrences of violent crime or armed robbery. It involves the use of threat, or force to that effect, to frighten an individual with the intent to kill, rape or rob the person. Banditry is a huge crime against a person. It has been a common type of crime, also causing violence in current societies (Nigeria Watch, 2011).

(Oarhe & Aghedo, 2021) define banditry as “a criminal phenomenon that succeeds due to the governance void and the systemic negligence of rural communities, leading to insecurity, violence, and criminal operations by non-state actors.” They connect banditry to the collapse of local economies and the failure of pastoralism in many parts of Nigeria.

Banditry is a kind of planned crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threat or use of violence. An individual who participates in banditry is known as a bandit and mainly commits crimes such as armed robbery, murder and extortion, either in groups or as an individual. The occurrence of banditry in Nigeria have shown to be high and increasing over the years. Banditry is a term used to refer to acts of violence and robbery in parts where there is a breakdown of law and order.

In a related development, (Collins, 2000) emphasized that banditry entails of the grouping of armed gangs to attack a state or enterprises or social institutions or individual persons. Partaking in such gangs and the attacks committed by them is likewise regarded as banditry. A bandit can be well-defined as an outlaw or robber belonging to a gang, who uses arms to rob or steal from individuals and typically operates in a lawless or isolated area of a country. Historically, banditry has existed and functioned in different parts of the world since the 19th century when bandits riding majorly on horsebacks moved from their hideouts to attack villages and then withdraw to their hideouts.



In Europe, bandits attack has occurred in most hilly areas of Turkey, Spain, Italy and Greece (Cassia 1993). In Asia, bandits have existed in numerous countries such as India, Philippines and Iran (Bankoff, 1998). While as in India, bandits are called Daku in the Hindi language which the British colonialists created as dacoity during the colonial period. Hence, dacoity has turn out to be a term for banditry in the Indian subcontinent where bandits have operated for several years in north and northcentral India. One of the notable dacoits was Gabbar Singh who encouraged the well-known 1975 Bollywood film *Sholay* (Flames) based on his life. Therefore, banditry has a lucrative and rich history all over south Asia and notwithstanding continued anti banditry efforts, the problem of banditry continues in India currently (Dmella 2018).

In Africa the bandits have continued to ruin the horn of Africa, East and Central Africa and also the trans-Saharan trade paths from the Niger Republic to Libya (Aregbesola, 2020). Banditry has occurred in some parts of Chad and also around Lake Chad and they also have a significant existence in parts of Southern Africa (Aregbesola, 2020). In West Africa, the occurrence and brutality of banditry have contributed to the growing increase in regional insecurity with a potential danger to regional integration of the subregion (Abdullahi, 2019). Reports have revealed that some of the bandits from some countries of the West African subregion such as Mali and Niger Republic were invited to carry out large scale of attacks in some countries of the sub-region. They moved through the permeable West African borders with their arms to support their fellow bandits in carrying out reprisal or large-scale attacks. In Nigeria, banditry emanated as a result of approximately four decades of unsettled conflicts between stable cultivators and roaming herding communities that wander on the high grasslands of northern Nigeria particularly the North-West geo-political zone. Banditry in Zamfara State started around 2009 and amplified in 2011 especially after the general elections (Anka, 2017).

In the situation of Katsina State, it started about 2010, it started mostly in the seven local government areas (LGAs) that shared boundaries with Zamfara state namely Batsari, Jibia, Saba, Kankara, Dnmusa, Safana and Faskari. According to (Odinkalu, 2018), bandits have developed as the new Monster for insecurity in Nigeria, joining a long list such as Boko Haram, Herdsmen, Militants, Cultists and Kidnappers. In parts of the North-West, Birnin-Gwari in Kaduna State to Tsafe in Zamfara State, bandits offered as a trope for an unbearable Bloodbath, and the bizarre misfortune.

Concept of Socio-economic Development

Socio-economic Development as a concept is a prey of definitional diversity. Though, efforts have been made by some erudite scholars to conceptualize the term. (The United Nations, 2008) defined socio-economic development as a process that increases people's opportunity of choice and a better future. (Noami, 1995) stated that socio-economic development symbolizes all efforts to advance the conditions of human existence in almost all ramifications, particularly in the areas of social economy and infrastructure. To him, therefore, socio-economic development encompasses not only economic growth but also some concepts of unbiased distribution, education, provision of health care, housing, and other vital services to advance the citizen's quality of life.

According to (Odeh and Okoye, 2014) socio-economic development centers on three major pillars which are: economic, socio and environment. Consequently, many nations have implemented these three pillars to sustain their growth and development. To this effect, (Obi and Nweke, 2010) have precisely observed that socio-economic development in its definite meaning signified the action and initiatives taken by a country to advance the socio-economic conditions of its citizens.

Concept of insecurity

The concept of insecurity implies different meanings such as: danger, absence of safety, hazard, lack of protection, uncertainty, and lack of



safety in a country. According to (Beland, 2005), insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to lack of protection. Insecurity is also seen as a state of being exposed or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is a form of being vulnerable to harm or injury. Besides, insecurity is the state of being exposed to anxiety or risk, where anxiety is an indefinite unpleasant feeling that is experienced in anticipation of some disaster (Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpan-Robaro, 2013). These definitions of insecurity emphasize a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only unaware or uncertain of what would occur but they are also vulnerable to the threats and danger when they occur. In the context of this paper insecurity is well-defined as a breach of peace and security, whether religious, historical, ethno-regional, economic, social, civil, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to cruel destruction of lives and properties.

Origin And Causes Of Insecurity In Nigeria:

According to (Ali, 2013), the fear of insecurity in Nigeria is on the increase and this has been intensified by the increasing spray of terrorism since the country returned to democratic rule in 1999. Violent crime has an origin and history in Nigeria, and could be traced back to the period from 1960 to 1970. At independence in 1960, a federal structure was imposed on Nigeria by the British. (Whear 1963) conceptualizes federalism as a legitimate division of power among two levels of government which are self-governing and coordinative in their individual domains of influence. Unfortunately, the federal structure bestowed to Nigeria at independence did not adapt to K.C. Whear's views of federalism as a system of government where two levels of government exist each sovereign in its domain of jurisdiction (Awotayo, Sakiru, Belo & Olutokunbo, 2013).

The incursion of the military into governance, and the consequent imposition of military command structure in a federation set the tone for the distortion of Nigeria's federalism. Hence, the practice of federalism in Nigeria no uncertainty has been slanted by overwhelming dominance of

the federal government that allocates national resources to lower-level government as its own whims and caprices (Ewetan, 2011). Since independence, the call for true federalism, economic and political reformation by diverse ethnic nationalities in Nigeria has not abated. These agitations have contributed to violent rebellious reactions by angry ethnic groups in the country, jeopardizing the unity, security, and corporate existence of Nigeria as one country. Federalism that demoralizes the independence and autonomy of its federating units will only bring about conflict, threat to the nation cohesion and peace, and ultimate collapse (Ali, 2013; Adamu, 2005).

Insecurity challenges can be traced to the early years of military rule when large numbers of arms were imported into the country for the use of military during and after Nigerian civil war, some of which got into the hands of the civilians. Soon after the civil war these arms were used by civilians and ex-military men for mischievous purposes like armed robbery. There was also the army of unemployed youths some of whom lost their job during the civil war. The level of insecurity implicit dangerous dimensions in the prolonged years of military rule starting from 1970 during which people obtain arms and light weapons for personal defence. Some of these arms and light weapons got into the possession of unemployed youths who used them for deviant drive. While some researchers attribute youth violence to peer group impact and other psychological factors associated with growing up, others highlighted the impact of political and economic factors such as political agitation, ethnic agitation, unemployment, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) as causes of violent reaction among the youth.

Many scholars have identified numerous causes of conflict and insecurity in Nigeria that are unwelcoming to socio-economic and national development (Onyishi, 2011; Ali, 2013; Ezeoba, 2011; Okorie, 2011; Jega, 2002; Lewis, 2002). These causes have been classified into external and internal causes. In Nigeria the internal causes of insecurity stance major challenges to socio-



economic development than the external causes of insecurity. This paper hence focuses on the internal causes of insecurity in Nigeria, which includes:

- **Terrorism:** The most important source of insecurity in Nigeria today is terrorism which is traceable to religious extremism and intolerance mostly in Islam dominated states of Nigeria (Achumba et al, 2013). Terrorism is a worldwide phenomenon and it is ravaging the whole world. (Sampson and Onuoha, 2011) defined terrorism as “the deliberate use or threat of use of violence by a group or an individual to cause fear, death or destruction, particularly against unarmed targets, infrastructure or property in a state, intended to force those in authority to answer to the demands and expectations of the group or individual behind such violent acts”. Terrorism in Nigeria is not a new phenomenon, it started with the notorious Islamic group in the Northern part of Nigeria called Mataisine during Alhaji Shehu Shagari civilian rule of the second republic which was ended by a military coup in December 1983 led by General Muhammadu Buhari. Terrorism rears its ugly head again during the Obasanjo civilian government of the fourth republic which saw religious riots in Plateau state in Northern Nigeria. In current times terrorism has assumed a political undertone and is been headed by an unidentified Islamic insurgents based in the Northern region of Nigeria called Boko Haram, that has claimed thousands of lives in the North since 2009. Terrorism in Nigeria has been linked to socio-political, economic, religious and cultural factors. Although terrorism originated from Islamic extremism, it is now motivated by factors such as differences within the country and deficiency among Nigerians, in terms of livelihood (economic) resources, good values and education or access to education. The present challenge of terrorism to physical security is threatening the Nigeria society on all faces. Some foreign spectators have linked terrorism in Nigeria to a number of factors which include, religious/ethnic distrust, political conflicts, unstable development that involves horizontal differences, poor governance linked to high-level of corruption and leadership failure (Kufour, 2012; Oluwarotimi, 2012).
- **Unemployment/Poverty:** According to (Adagba, Ugwu, Eme, 2012), unemployment/poverty among Nigerians, especially among the youths are a major reason of insecurity and violent crimes in Nigeria. Actually, youth's unemployment has contributed to the increasing cases of violent conflict in Nigeria. Likewise, one of the main causes of insecurity in the country is the failure of successive administration to address challenges of unemployment, poverty, and unfair distribution of wealth amongst ethnic nationalities. There is high rate of unemployment in Katsina State due to lack of large number of industries to employ the crowded youths and others. The Katsina State government remains the largest employer in the state and even the government has failed to effectively replace staffers that have retired or died. One of the industries that employ large number of workers is the Katsina Steel Rolling Company (Dana Steel PLC) which has been privatized leading to the dismissal of many workers of the company. A study by (Ladan and Ladan, 2011) has revealed that from the 1980s to date a number of industries in Katsina, Funta, Kankara and Dutsinma have stopped functioning as a result of some problems. The rate of unemployment may further increase as farming activities are currently threatened by banditry and kidnapping.
- **Weak Security System:** This is a major contributing factor to the rate of insecurity in Nigeria, and this can be attributed to a number of factors which encompass insufficient funding of the police and other security agencies, lack of up-to-date equipment both in arms and training, poor welfare of security personnel, and inadequate personnel (Achumba et al. 2013). According to



(Olonisakin, 2008), the police-population percentage in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the standard set by the United Nations. The consequence of this is that Nigeria is grossly under policed and this partly clarifies the inability of the Nigerian Police Force to effectively combat crimes and criminality in the country. Katsina State, like other federation states, has a relatively low presence of security personnel. The security personnel such as the police, security and civil defense corps are not in adequate amount in the LGAs in order to combat the several criminal activities carried out by criminals and other miscreants, (Umar and Shittu, 2017) observed that while the country's population has improved progressively over the years, police work force have not improved to match it, to at least meet up the projected global standard for operative policing. This obvious scarcity made it practically impossible for the police force to effectively control and curbs the ever-rising rate and wave of crimes and insecurity (Olly, 2014 in Umar and Shittu, 2017). In all the eight frontline LGAs, the number of policemen is not more than 30-50 in a divisional police office which is quite insufficient to antagonize hundreds of bandits that lived in the forests. In fact, in some remote settlements near the forests such as Fafara and Shimfida in Jibia LGA, the bandits have established themselves as the law. The judge and settle dispute between the remaining peoples as most of them have fled to safety. The inadequate security presence in these isolated areas have created ungoverned spaces where the bandits have taken over.

- **Systematic And Political Corruption:** This has contributed to government breakdown and failure of institutional organizations. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is critically a function of government failure, visible to systemic and political corruption. It has added another measure of violent conflicts which has eroded national values. Corruption is bad not because money and benefits change hands, and not because of the purposes of contributors, but

because it privatizes valued aspects of public life, by passing procedures of representation, choice. It has been defined as cancer militating against Nigeria's development, because corruption extremely threatens the fabric of the Nigeria's development, because corruption extremely threatens the fabric of the Nigeria society (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). Corruption hinders economic growth, excessively burdens the poor and demoralizes the effectiveness of investment and aid (Iyare, 2008).

- **Pervasive Material-inequalities and Unfairness:** A main reason that contributes to insecurity in Nigeria is the rising awareness of inequalities, and gaps in life chances which lead to violent reactions by a large number of people. There is an over-all perception of marginalization by a section of the people in areas of government development policies, political patronage, and these are inductions of disaffection, revolt and resentment (Achumba, et al. 2013). The continual strikes by labour, professional groups and protests by civil society groups are mainly due to pervasive material inequalities and unfairness. Their agitations are aimed at portraying public sympathy for their struggle for a just and fair treatment by the government.
- **Politically Based Violence:** Since the first republic's collapse on January 14th, 1966, Nigeria has experienced an extensive record of acts of violence motivated by politics, and the invasion of the military into governance on the same date. The voting politics in Nigeria right from 1960s till date has been characterized with violent conflicts, assassination, arson and political thuggery. Politicians in Nigeria do not accommodate dialogue, consensus and negotiation (Eme and Onyishi, 2011). Political challenges are categorized by desperation, and violent struggle for political power among politicians. Frequent political violence in Nigeria could be ascribed to over-zealousness and desperation of political fencers to win elections or remain



in office at all cost. These mishaps have often been disastrous leading to decimation of innocent lives destruction of properties and the disruption of economic activities among other.

- **Economic-based Violence:** It can also be referred to as 'political economy of violence'. (Eme and Onyishi, 2011) note that, in current writings in the mass media, much emphasis is placed on the role of resources in generating conflict which is a major reason for economic-based violence across the globe and across political rift. Calls for resource control and revenue allocation frequently rent the air amongst proponents and opponents also leading to violent tensions among the contending actors and between the state and proponents. The Niger-Delta crisis in Nigeria presents a typical case of this violent scuffle that has been on since the end of the Nigerian civil war in 1970. These violent agitations have claimed many lives of Nigerians and foreigners, properties worth billions of naira and military and para-military personnel. It has also resulted in economic disaster in Nigeria through loss of oil revenue as a result of gap in crude oil exports by the oil companies occasioned by interruption of oil exploration activities by the Niger-Delta militants. Although by no means restricted to oil in Niger Delta, the most predominant campaign about the link between resources and conflict in Nigeria focuses on oil and the Delta region. No doubt oil has given growth to horizontal and vertical conflicts amongst National, State and society or between dominant and subordinate geopolitical zones, groups and classes across Nigeria, given the essential role that oil plays in the political economy, and power relations in Nigeria. However, it is true that those types of resources driven conflicts have received less attention in the debate. Resources such as farming and grazing, and water resource, have tended to give increase to horizontal conflicts that involve communities across the geopolitical zones.

Methodology:

The source of information for this research work was gotten from existing literature, journal articles, internet and other publications. A qualitative research method was used in the study work. The scholar used desk research assessment methodology also known as the desktop study in which papers from secondary data were studied. The secondary data was sourced from existing literature and internet. As compared to other methods, this does not require going to field. Looking at the benefit and good side of using desk research review is that it is economical and less time consuming compared to other methods that require field survey, while its disadvantage is that it could be a wasted effort if the researcher lacks the adequate know-how in organizing and synthesizing the information collected. This is so because a meaningful assessment and conclusion can only be reached with proper knowledge of the method.

The Impact of Insecurity on Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria:

(The United Nations Development Programme, 2014) and (World Bank, 2006) observed in their numerous reports with respect to Nigeria's situation that attaining socio-economic development would remain a mere wish that may be hard to achieve in Nigeria if the wave of insecurity is not appropriately curtailed. According to them, in spite of Nigeria's immense earnings from oil, 70% of her estimated 160 million populations live below the poverty line. In addition, the poor state of infrastructure, epileptic power supply, dilapidated roads, poor health care services, lack of access to potable water, poor sanitation, hunger, massive poverty, unemployment and malnutrition are evident in Nigeria.

Empirical evidence from the verdicts of the United State National Security Advisor, (Rice, 2007), revealed that Nigeria is one of the African countries with the highest number of destitute people and unprecedented security challenges. In her view, Nigeria, being the largest economy in Africa, does not interpret to the well-being of her citizens as a result of insecurity in the country.



Human capital development also encountered a hitch as schools in the North closed down to avoid recurring cases of kidnapping. However, (Odu, Ayodele and Adebayo, 2014), detected that human capital development has numerous economic benefits in increasing the productivity of group and individual, thus stimulating a country's national growth and socio-economic development. The insecurity challenges also affected other segments in government revenue allocation as the security budget continues to rise yearly. Data from (BudgIT, 2020) shows that in 2020 the Federal Government allotted N1.78 trillion for security expenditures which is about 83.7 percent increase from the amount allocated for the same in 2015.

Also, as major regions and states in Nigeria turn out to be the hotspot for activities threatening peace and security, people were enforced to transfer to safer locations within and outside the country. Consequently, places like Lagos and Abuja, etc., are gradually becoming home to refugees resulting in overpopulation of select places. According to the data from the National Bureau of Statistic (2016) showed that it decelerated consecutively from April, 2021. But unfortunately, insecurity as well contributed to Nigeria's inflation performance. Though, this failed to reflect the certainty in the market as prices of goods and food items surged significantly. Increasing violence in the country has cost Nigeria 11 percent of its GDP with N119 billion.

In the same strain, the global peace index for 2021 collected by the Institute for Economic and Peace ranked Nigeria 146th out of 163 countries. While amongst Sub-Saharan African countries, the country was ranked 39th out of 44 countries studied in the region. Violent crimes such as assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, car hijacking, hostage-taking, rape and banditry are regularly reported in Nigeria.

Hence, the US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, and the Canadian Government guided against travelling to Nigeria.

(Hoffman, 1995) defined an underdeveloped country as:

- A country that is wanting in factories or industries of its own,
- A country with insufficient government service, poor communication, insufficient roads, and insufficient social infrastructure,
- A country characterized by poverty, with beggars in the cities.

This allusion, in his words, accurately captures the current state of Nigeria.

Conclusion:

The presence of insecurity in any environment establishes threat to lives and properties, hampers business activities, and discourages foreign and local investors, all of which knees and retards socio-economic development of a country. Since Nigeria gained independence in 1960, there has been a rising wave of insecurity. This increasing wave has not decreased but has implicit a dangerous measure which is even threatening the corporate presence of the country as on geographical entity. The removal of these intimidations should be the number one goal of governments in Nigeria at all levels as the country cannot attain any substantial development amidst insecurity and violence.

Katsina State have been facing insecurity which have affected the socio-economic development of the affected LGAs and the State in general. The insecurity currently is banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling that is occurring mostly in the eight frontline LGAs of the state. The tenacity of the insecurity evident by the constant killing of innocent citizens has sparked protests in some LGAs which has more increased the level of insecurity in the State.

Government must be active in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern approaches of intellect gathering, and intellect sharing, motivation, logistics, training, and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges as there is urgent need to adopt proactive strategies to tackle the level of insecurity in the State.



Recommendation:

The following measures are recommended towards curbing the high level of insecurity in Katsina State:

- i. The State Government should go all-out to provide employment opportunities for youth and graduates from the institutions of higher learning. This can be reached by reducing the cost of governance and the cost of awarding contracts which can be directed to employ the youths to effectively replace staffers in the State civil service. Private individuals should be encouraged to set up small and medium-sized companies to create jobs for the teaming youths in the State.
- ii. The State Government ought to continue working towards eliminating the high levels of poverty in the State. New agendas that will make direct impact on the lives of the rural poor persons should be introduced to help lessen poverty in the State. If necessary, the state government should seek aid from the federal government as well as international organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF and Oxfam to alleviate the state's high degree of poverty.
- iii. The State government ought to provide schools at affordable cost for the people of the State and acquisition of education should be made mandatory for all. Furthermore, the state government ought to ensure that essential social amenities such as a consistent supply of quality health facilities, power, portable water, and good road networks are available to the people.
- iv. Armed banditry criminals in the state should face tougher sanctions. Armed bandits should receive execution punishment as a penalty. This would prevent anyone intending to engage in armed banditry.
- v. The Federal Government ought to provide suitable security personnel to effectively protect communities mostly in the rural areas where most of the banditry take place. This can be attained through employing large number of security personnel such as the Civil Defense Corps and Police which should then be posted to the rural areas of the state to provide active security against crime and criminality in the areas that need their services.
- vi. The federal government should ensure that various security operations are efficient in order to flush out the bandits from their forest hideouts and operating bases. The security operations should be carried out in such a way that innocent people are not harmed, so that resentment and grievances among the local community do not grow.
- vii. The federal government should ensure that security troops confronting the bandits are equipped with cutting-edge weapons that can successfully counter their attacks. They should also be commanded to respond quickly to any bandit attacks with adequate firepower, and any corruption claims should be probed, with any officer found guilty facing court martial and being severely punished.
- viii. More professionally trained security personnel armed with more modern weapons of warfare should be sent to towns and LGAs in the state that are vulnerable to banditry.
- ix. The federal government should adequately secure the country's territorial borders. This can be accomplished by increasing the number of personnel employed by Nigerian Customs and immigration Services in order to adequately secure the country's land borders. Border intelligence for tracking down bandits, drugs, and weapons.
- x. Good governance is another solution to the state's armed banditry problem. The government should avoid corruption and keep the promises it makes to the public during election campaigns.



- xi. Government agency such as the institute for peace and conflict resolution should be engage to provide the non-kinetic approaches in resolving these menace

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